



**Halifax Chamber of Commerce
Transportation Committee**

Action Plan

2009- 2010

March 5, 2009

Vision

Halifax is served by effective and efficient transportation systems to, from and throughout the area and is a serious competitor for national and international trade and tourism.

Mission

Through awareness, knowledge and sound debate, to help create, lead, critique and advance inspired and sustainable transportation systems policy.

Mandate

The Transportation Committee is mandated to monitor transportation policy that affects the region and the business environment for members of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. This committee is also tasked with:

- Assessing the impact of such policy and influencing policy decisions at the federal, provincial and municipal level on behalf of members of the Chamber as directed by the Executive.
- Liaising with transportation policy organizations and research organizations within Atlantic Canada.
- Taking leadership positions on issues of importance to Atlantic Canada.

Structure

The Transportation Committee's activities are undertaken in three specific categories: Air, Port & Rail, and Surface, with a sub-committee for each. The sub-committees delve into the details and keep the main Committee abreast of current transportation issues affecting our community. They bring comments, ideas and draft recommendations forward for discussion and consideration of further action.

Goals

1. Make recommendations to advance and assist the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors and members to remain aware of transportation policy issues, including:

- a) Municipal/provincial transportation co-ordination
- b) Increased provincial funding for Metro Transit
- c) Increase Metro Transit services to improve commuting, workplace access and airport transportation within the city and surrounding area

2. Providing well-considered opinions on the following transportation policy issues:

- a) Transportation Demand Management
- b) Atlantic Gateway
- c) Integrated Transportation Corridor
- d) National transportation policy
- e) Federal Government Rail Service Review
- f) Transportation-related infrastructure and research stimulus programs
- g) Urban transit and commuter issues
- h) Sustainable and active transportation
- i) Relevant infrastructure initiatives funded by 2009 Federal Budget and the economic stimulus plan
- j) Privatization/P3 partnerships
- k) Toll roads, area-wide tolling and other highway funding options
- l) Other relevant emerging issues

3. Helping ensure that transportation policies and actions of the municipal, provincial and federal governments are effective, fiscally prudent and properly integrated.

These include:

- a) The city should develop a master transportation plan.
- b) The city and province should revisit the creation of an amalgamated, unified Transportation Authority.
- c) The province should substantially increase funding for Metro Transit, bringing it up to national averages of municipal transit funding.

Action Items

1. Follow up of next steps for rail service review
2. Re-invite Federal Transportation Minister to address and visit Chamber
3. Invite Head of Policy, Transport Canada, to visit committee when in Halifax
4. Observe and be prepared to comment upon peak-hour tolling, one-way tolling and other Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission tolling options
5. Revisit the Unified Transportation Authority concept at the Transportation Committee
6. Discuss potential alternatives to Metro Transit fare hikes
7. Questions related to release of Integrated Transportation Corridor report are ready for use